

turn away a child who needed his healing touch. Dr. DiMaso once said, "Babies and children are the elixir, the last pure thing on earth. Hug them, don't stop hugging them." For these reasons, when his patients grow up, they bring their own children to Dr. DiMaso. I would like to thank and congratulate Dr. DiMaso for his kind work. I am sure many mothers, fathers, and children will miss his kind contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 8, I was necessarily absent from the House and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. I ask permission that the following explanation for each vote be placed in the appropriate place in the official RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "Nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 369 and 370.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT CHARLES L. BOWMAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career in the health care industry is coming to an end in Missouri.

Charles L. "Charlie" Bowman, president of the Missouri Hospital Association, Hospital Industry Data Institute, and MHA Management Services Corp., is retiring after having served Missouri's health care community for 22 years.

Bowman's distinguished career in health care began in October 1975 when he was named senior vice president of the Missouri Hospital Association. He was selected president of that organization in 1986. Mr. Bowman also proudly served his country in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1962-1990, retiring as a Colonel.

During his decades of service to Missouri's hospitals, Bowman has witnessed encouraging changes in the State's health care system. Recent challenges include the emergence of managed care, increasing competition among health care providers, rapid advances in technology, and increasing oversight by government agencies. Throughout the new challenges of today's health care environment, Bowman has led the association to promote the health and welfare of the citizens of Missouri through education and legislative advocacy.

Additionally, Charlie Bowman is active in service and professional organizations, including Rotary International, the American Hospital Association, the American Society of Association Executives, the Missouri Society of Association Executives, the Missouri Association of Army Officers, and the Boy Scouts of America.

As he prepares for quieter times with his wife, Sue, and his four children, I know the

Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Charlie Bowman and in wishing him the best in the days ahead.

INTRODUCTION BY REQUEST OF THE DISASTER STREAMLINING AND COSTS REDUCTION ACT OF 1997

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am today introducing by request the administration's proposal to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

As my colleagues are well aware, the Stafford Act provides the authority of the Federal Government, primarily the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], to respond to disasters and emergencies in order to provide assistance to save lives and protect public health, safety, and property.

The administration's bill, the "Disaster Streamlining and Costs Reduction Act of 1997," establishes new hazard mitigation authorities and, among other things, makes various other changes relating to eligibility for disaster assistance and to Federal cost-sharing and administrative costs and policies.

Natural disasters cost the victims and the Nation's taxpayers too much. In the last 10 years alone, the Federal Government has obligated over \$50 billion in disaster assistance. Without significant changes in law and policy, the financial exposure of the Federal Government and the risks to families and communities will only increase.

There are also ongoing concerns about the need for more streamlined and responsive disaster programs. While FEMA and others have made administrative improvements over the years, the fact remains that almost an entire decade has passed since Congress last revised and improved the Nation's primary disaster relief and emergency assistance law, the Stafford Act. The need to consider comprehensive legislation and promote improved partnerships between the public and private sectors is clear.

After a preliminary analysis, I believe the administration's bill has several desirable features. It provides a helpful starting point in reining in some of the costs, streamlining and improving various assistance programs, and encouraging hazard prevention and mitigation activities. This bill also has some provisions that are somewhat troubling. I expect the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and, in particular, its Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, chaired by Representative SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, to carefully examine the bill along with other legislative proposals.

I look forward to working with FEMA's Director James Lee Witt and others to improve the Nation's disaster relief program and reduce the costs to disaster victims and the Nation's taxpayers.

PROPOSITION 209

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court, recently refused to block enforcement of California's Proposition 209, the measure that bans race or gender from being a factor in State hiring or school admission. This measure, which was originally agreed to by the people of California nearly 2 years ago, has finally taken effect. I am pleased that the Supreme Court has decided to abide by the will of the people and allow those most qualified and most deserving to obtain State contracts and spots in our competitive universities.

Treating people differently because of their color used to be called discrimination, today it is called affirmative action. I disagree with the President's stance on affirmative action. I believe the popular support of Proposition 209 in California shows our great State's commitment to the historical ideals of liberty and equal justice under the law.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 20 years the Government has been trying to classify all Americans. This is something that I believe is unnecessary and divisive to all of us. I do not believe that race or gender should be used in the consideration of a person's qualifications for a job or the receipt of services.

For America to stand united, we must first stand as individuals who are equal in the eyes of the law. In order for us to solve the problems that stand in our Nation's workplace and our communities, every American needs to be able to stand balanced under blind justice.

Mr. Speaker, as long as affirmative action is a part of our society, the character, the motivations and achievements of some Americans will remain suspect in the eyes of others. This recent Supreme Court decision is a great victory for California. We are leading the charge to end race-based preferences. We have seen the continued failure of affirmative action and we will work to open the doors of fairness and equality.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN WOURMHOUDT FATHER OF THE SKATEBOARD PARK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man devoted to landscape architecture and children. Ken Wourmhoudt was a sport's visionary, creating large outside sculptural forms used as skateboard parks. Ken befriended children and defended skateboarders from detractors, a true friend to his community. It is my privilege to be speaking of this man's accomplishments today.

Ken Wourmhoudt, a licensed architect by trade, worked hard to keep an open dialog between the community and the skateboarders. He appreciated the children's love of the sport and often spoke on their behalf.

His passion for the skateboard parks began in 1978 when he designed Derby Park in